



Commander applauds AFMC war efforts; discourages complacency

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Pullen
Arnold Engineering Dev. Center Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command's top military leader recently told workers at Arnold AFB, Tenn., that AFMC is doing excellent work responding to the Sept. 11 tragedies, but command members can't sit back and rest on their laurels.

Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander, said people have a perception that the command had to go through extraordinary steps to respond to 9-11. But the fact is it's almost business as usual.

"By saying that I don't want to make it sound like it wasn't a terrible thing for the nation and the military to respond to, but we (AFMC) were already prepared to handle surge activities and getting things out of our depots quickly. All of those things have become very, very important."

If there's one major emphasis the command needs to realize, Lyles said it's a stronger recognition that AFMC needs to do things faster, particularly in the acquisition and science and technology areas.

"Since 9-11, and several weeks after that, we were able to pull technologies that related to defense, or technologies that related to searching for bodies in the rubble, off our shelves and offer them to the FBI and other agencies outside of the military," he said.

For that reason, AFMC members, and the rest of the Air Force and military communities, need to be ready to respond immediately, according to Lyles.

"That example was, I think, a very prominent one to let us know that we always

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Photo by Staff. Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Grand entrance

Guests, retirees, and the official party members make a grand entrance at the recent Chief Induction Ceremony at the Brooks Club. During the ceremony, Chief Master Sergeants Voreda Sloan, Kenneth Darner, Eduardo Martinez, Stephen Akers, Steven Smith, and Frank Talavera were inducted. The induction ceremony was the first to be held at Brooks in more than seven years.

AFIERA director selected for SES

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Eric Stephens, director of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, has been selected for promotion to the Senior Executive Service. His promotion ceremony will be held at 2 p.m., April 4 at Hangar 9.

Officially notified March 14 that he had been approved for the civilian rank equivalent of a one-star general, the 53-year-old Urbana, Ill. native accepted his latest accomplishment with the confidence of a man whose Air Force career epitomizes preparedness.

"As a (former) Eagle Scout, I learned to be prepared," Stephens said, explaining that his career has been a series of challenges in which his values, learned in scouting, have served him well. His preparedness as a Brooks AFB senior leader was tested when he became interim AFIERA director in June 2001 following the death of his boss, Dr. David Erwin. As Erwin's deputy director, Stephens managed the 400-plus member organization during the former director's prolonged illness.

Since his arrival at Brooks in 1993, Stephens has successfully weathered the tides of change. Initially the Human Systems Center's environmen-

tal management director, Stephens later served as deputy director for the Armstrong Laboratory's Occupational and Environmental Health Directorate. "I saw the transition of the Armstrong Lab to the Air Force Research Laboratory, and the creation of IERA and its transition to AFIERA," he noted.

As AFIERA director, his ability to manage change will continue unabated during the Brooks City-Base era. Not surprising is his top priority of organizational readiness. "We (AFIERA) have a mobility readiness mission of 50-plus people that will grow in the future. My first priority is make sure these people are trained, equipped and ready to deploy," Stephens said. "My second priority is customer service. We support Air Force customers worldwide as well as the Navy, Army and Veterans Administration. We also work closely with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). However, our core customers, the prime reason why we (AFIERA) exist, are base level people."

Stephens is particularly sensitive to the needs of Air Force base personnel having previously served at that level as a civil engineer. His Air Force civil service career began in 1975 as




Stephens


chief of construction management for Bolling AFB's base civil engineer. Shortly thereafter he served as deputy base civil engineer. Subsequent assignments as A-76 program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hanscom AFB's deputy base civil engineer and Aeronautical Systems Division's deputy director for acquisition and environmental management at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio helped

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Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks Air Force Base. Material for the *Discovery* should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Suite 116, Brooks AFB, TX 78235-5120 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: Cerise.Fenton@brooks.af.mil or to: Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

The *Discovery* is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the *Discovery*, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to *Prime Time Military Newspapers*, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.

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A hard lesson learned, and shared

By Senior Airman Rodney Taylor

Lackland Regional Correctional Facility

I started drinking at the age of seventeen. I started drinking out of curiosity and peer pressure at parties. When I was twenty years old, I started drinking more heavily. On and off for seven more years, I drank a lot of alcohol. It all caught up with me the night of May 25, 2001.

I joined the Air Force in June of 1995 in hopes of making my country proud. I made the rank of Staff Sgt. after only my second time testing. On the night of May 25, 2001, my wonderful Air Force career came to an end.

I drank for several hours that day and decided to go to Club 204 on base for a little while that night. I continued to drink at the club and left around 8 p.m. That's when the tragedy unfolded.

As I was driving off base, I hit the outbound main gate. After hitting the gate, I got scared of getting a possible DWI and I fled the scene of the accident.

Fleeing the scene of an accident, next to getting in my truck and driving drunk in the first place, was the worst thing I have ever done in my life. I displayed a huge lack of integrity that night. I let down the NCO Corps, my co-workers, and my peers.

After the incident, I received a Special Court-Martial. In my six and a half years of serving the Air Force proudly, I never had so much as a letter of counseling. But because I chose to drink and drive, I'm doing time at the Lackland Regional Correctional Facility.

I have nothing but time to think about what I did. I missed spending Christmas and New Years with loved ones because of the crimes I committed. I received a Bad Conduct Discharge and 75 days confinement for my crimes. I had a pre-trial agreement, though, in which I received 6 months of confinement in place of the BCD, but I was still knocked down to the grade of E-4.

In other words, I received more time in confinement so that I wouldn't have a BCD follow me for the rest of my life. I honestly never thought it would all come down to a court-martial, but it did. I had to face reality. I played and had to pay. What I did on the night of May 25 was very serious.

I realize in here I took a lot of things for granted. I would love to have a cup of coffee again or be able to sleep in my own bed, but I cannot. I am taking my lesson like a man and doing my time so I can get out of here and be a more productive member of society.

I lost so much May 25, 2001. That night plays over and over in my head. It will never go away. When I leave the LRCF, I will be scrutinized and watched, but that is fine by me. I'm not going to change the way I worked before, which was extremely hard. Instead, I'm going to change my behavior. I'm going to do whatever it takes to not touch a single drop of alcohol again.

WHATEVER IT TAKES!

I still have my health, my life, and my loving wife to be thankful for. I almost lost my wife through all of this. I thank God everyday she is still by my side, as well as my friends, co-workers and the AFIERA staff. All of them have stood by my side through this entire ordeal, which is amazing to me. All of this has been very tough on everybody.

I'm hoping to receive another shot at the Air

Force. If I do, I plan on making the rank of Staff Sgt. again and being a better NCO than ever before, an NCO who displays integrity, not only in his professional life, but in his personal life as well.

On the night of May 25, 2001 I was careless and selfish. I realize that I could have killed somebody as well as myself. I can be thankful I'm serving only six months in jail instead of six years.

I consider myself a lucky man today. I am a man who learns from his mistakes. This is the biggest mistake I ever made and I don't plan on making it again. I learned the Air Force doesn't mess around when Articles of the UCMJ are broken. It doesn't pay to drink and drive-EVER!

I know all of us have heard that before, but I'm living proof it's true. I can't take back what I did. I can only learn from what I did and apply it in my everyday life.

I hope this letter helps somebody. If it helps just one individual, then I've made a difference. I apologize to my peers, co-workers, and especially to my wife, Angel, and to General Dodd for the crimes I committed on May 25, 2001.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please take it to heart.

Senior Airman Rodney M. Tyler

UCMJ incorporates local state law blood alcohol content limit

A note from the 311th Human Systems Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

A recent change to the Uniform Code of Military Justice effects drunk driving cases prosecuted by military authorities.

Effective Dec. 28, 2001, Article 111 of the UCMJ, Drunken or Reckless Operation of a Vehicle, was changed to incorporate the local State law blood alcohol content limit instead of a uniform 0.10 grams

for bases located within the United States.

In the state of Texas, the standard blood alcohol content limit is .08.

Consequently, all drunk driving cases on Brooks will fall under those guidelines. Any airman with a BAC of .08 or greater is presumptively drunk, and is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The new standard would have impacted at least one of the cases at Brooks last year.

The *Discovery* is online.

Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.



We ***SALUTE*** you!



Civilians of the Year
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2001



Category I Student Aide
Stephanie Criollo
AFIERA/RSH



Category II GS3-5
Darlene Keister
311th HSW/PKOB



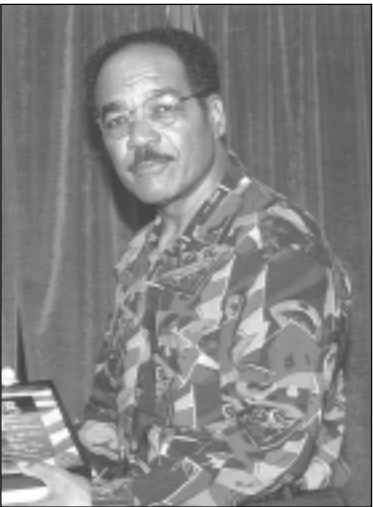
Category III GS6-8
Donna Greenwalt
AFIERA/DOT



Category IV GS9-11
David Escamilla
AFIERA/SDE



Category V GS12-13
Linda Canas
AFIERA/SDEM



Category VI WG/WL/WS
Samuel Williams
HQAFCEE/MSX



Category VII NAF
Richard Bentley
311 ABG/SVML



Applause

Continued from Page 1

have to be at a posture to support and respond,” Lyles said. “It means we have to continue working on technologies, that even though there may not be a customer for those technologies sometimes, we need to have it available and ready to solve a specific need or to respond to a new threat.

“Those technologies we pulled off the shelf after 9-11, nobody wanted them, but we’d developed them in the past, and along came the perfect time to provide them. I guess the bottom line is a reaffirmation and a greater emphasis that we need to change our acquisition process from cradle to grave, and to be able to respond and provide capabilities to a customer or a warfighter very, very quickly.”

While AFMC’s focus is warfighters supporting warfighters, America’s focus is healing from the terrorist attacks and relying on its military to bring justice to those responsible. The resulting patriotism sweeping the country is what Lyles calls a very welcome change.

“Seeing the outpouring of patriotism in the country means everything to me,” Lyles said. “The sacrifices our men and women make and give on a daily basis, and the capabilities they provide for our national securities and our freedoms, are at the highest level of appreciation than perhaps they have ever been. So it gives a lot of comfort to all of us in the uniform.”

The events of Sept. 11 have also brought about an increase in the proposed military spending in the president’s budget.

However, Lyles said there’s been some misunderstanding on how that money will be spent.

“A lot of people have misunderstood ex

actly what that initial budget is going to provide,” he said.

“There are a lot of people who thought all their pet projects, all their infrastructure needs, and all of the things we’ve stated we’ve needed for years would automatically be fulfilled. That isn’t the case.

“What it does mean is the needs to fight the current operation, Operation Enduring Freedom, will be taken care of. The need to pay the bills associated with Operation Noble Eagle will be taken care of. The need to provide support to our men and women right away in terms of salary increases are going to be the primary areas that get emphasis in this new budget coming out of this administration.”

The new budget will also provide immediate impacts to AFMC in other areas as well, according to Lyles.

“Where there’s going to be an immediate impact though are some areas that can transform the way we fight wars in the future,” Lyles said.

“You saw in the president’s budget greater emphasis on unmanned aerial vehicles and solving some of the aging aircraft problems we have. Those are going to have immediate impacts on the programs we work with in AFMC and actually accelerate some of those programs we have been developing and planning for in the future.”

The unmanned aerial vehicles programs will continue to grow, according to Lyles, due in part to their successes over Afghanistan.

“We’ve had great success in the war over Afghanistan with our unmanned vehicles like Global Hawk and both the surveillance and the armed Predator,” Lyles said.

“We’ve proven what you can do with

transformed capabilities and you’re going to see more and more of that with some of the dollars coming out of the current administration.”

Other changes Lyles discussed were the changes he’s seen in the Air Force during his more than 30-year career.

Some of those changes are the Air Force’s emphasis on people and the dramatic advances in technology.

“The number one change I’ve seen during my career in the Air Force is the emphasis on people,” he said.

“It’s very easy for the men and women in uniform, and certainly for the public and the families of military people, to think that all we focus on and all we are concerned about are things, systems, airplanes, missiles, etc. They weren’t getting an appreciation of how important they were.

“When we say that our people are our number one resource, they need to know that we really mean that and we’re putting our money where our mouths are. So to me the biggest change I’ve seen is an affirmation and recognition that we’re really not just about systems. Those systems are empty and can’t do anything without the people behind them, operating them, maintaining them or developing them.”

The second change Lyles talked about is the reason he says AFMC, and the Air Force, needs to continue to improve the way they do business.

“Technology has continued to grow and mature,” Lyles said.

“If you look at how rapidly it’s changing, it only emphasizes the need and importance of sticking and staying with technological improvements, and not just living on our laurels.”

Stephens

Continued from Page 1

prepare Stephens for AFIERA’s support of diverse environmental issues.

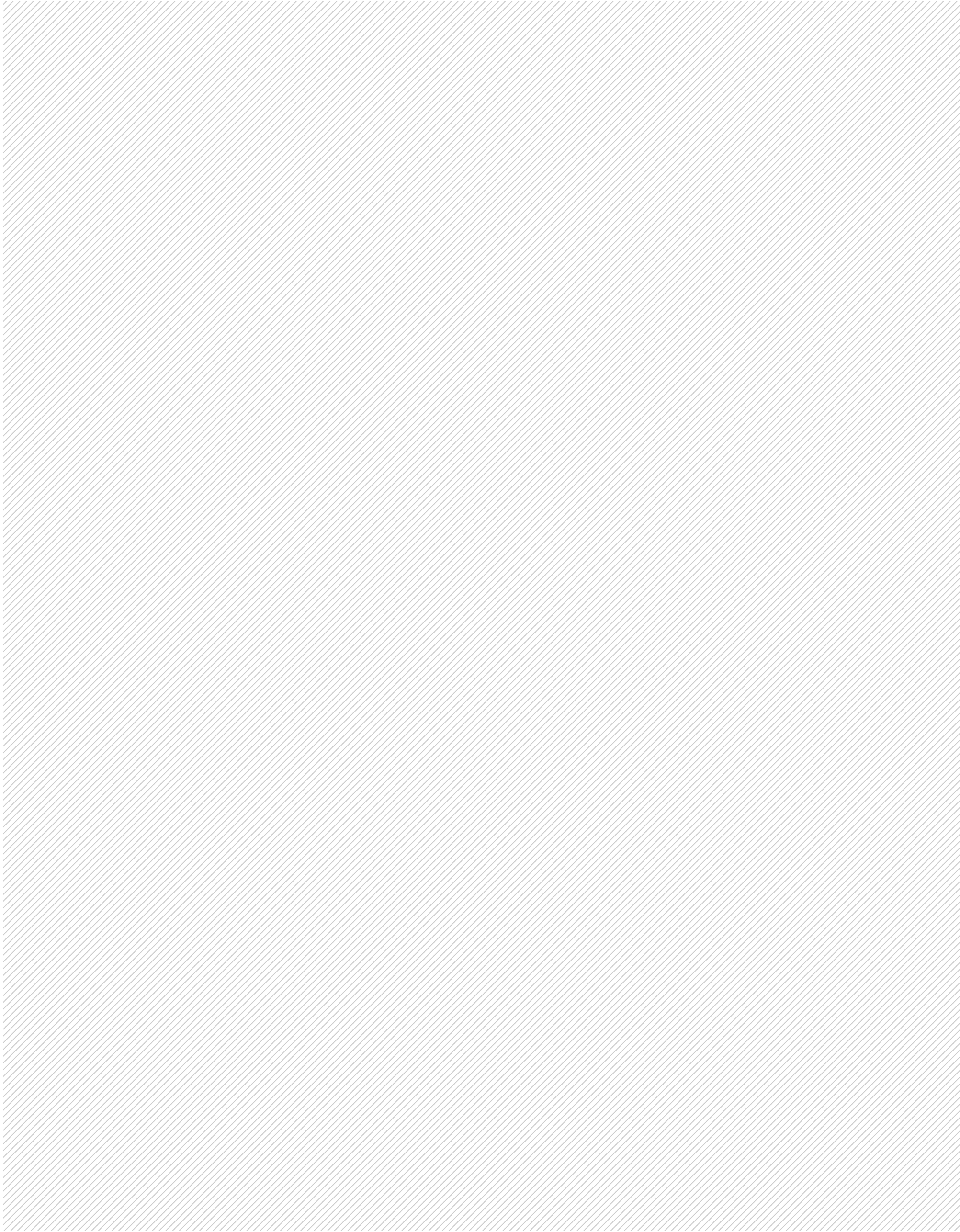
His career experience has also helped prepare him to promote his third organizational priority - growth, particularly in biotechnology. Among the biotechnological innovations that AFIERA has helped advance is RAPIDS, Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device used during the post-Sept. 11 anthrax incidents.

Stephens believes AFIERA’s continued growth, in support of Brooks City-Base, will be realized through partnerships. “We have a strong relationship with the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University and a growing relationship with Sam Houston State University,” he said. “While HSW is the anchor for City-Base, we’re (AFIERA, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, and other partners at Brooks) the magnet for attracting partnerships.”

The personable, people-oriented AFIERA leader is a staunch believer in balancing work with family life.

“We have terrific people (in AFIERA). There is so much talent in this organization. I want to continue to give them the encouragement to excel,” he said.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil





Check this out
Alvin Brown, left, formerly of the 311th Human Systems Wing Small Business Office, receives a check from Joe Diamond, the new Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. Brown was awarded the Women-Owned Small Business Outreach Excellence Award for Region II, recognizing his outstanding performance in support of women-owned businesses. Women-owned business firms who have benefited from the action of the Small Business Specialist submitted nominations. Brown was nominated by the KEVRIC Company, who provides contractor support to the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence. The formal presentation was made earlier in the year in Arlington, Va.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

The **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE** is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.**

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-3310
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Blended families workshop

11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 2, Bldg. 537—

If you are a stepparent, you know how challenging and confusing stepfamily life can be. But stepfamily living also offers tremendous potential for a rich family life, perhaps even beyond that of traditional families.

Now there's Blended Families, a new training course to help the stepfamily begin building solid relationships. Through readings, discussions, and activities, you'll learn new skills for making your stepfamily work—skills like:

- * Communicating more effectively
- * Resolving conflicts
- * Recognizing unrealistic expectations
- * Building your couple relationship
- * Helping children to share a parent

Credit repair workshop

11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 3, Bldg. 537—

Are you one of the millions of consumers refused credit each year? If you are, you need to know why. A bad credit record can make it difficult to get a loan, find a job, rent an apartment, buy a car, even get insurance. If you've thought about filing bankruptcy, already declared bankruptcy or experienced serious financial difficulties in your past, you can rebuild your credit.

"Stranger-Danger"

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Brooks Family Advocacy Program, in conjunction with the Child Development and Youth Centers, will sponsor San Antonio Police Officer Gilbert De La Portilla, a crime prevention specialist, at the Brooks Chapel during the noon hour April 2. The base population is invited to attend the Stranger-Danger presentation and luncheon. De La Portilla is known for his work with KMOL-TV and its efforts to educate the public about crimes against children.

De La Portilla will also speak with under-school-age children and their parents at the Child Development Center at 10 a.m. April 4, and with school-age children and their parents at the Youth Center at 4 p.m. April 4.

Parents interested in having their children participate may contact the following centers.

Brooks Chapel	536-3824
Child Development Center	536-2040
Youth Center	536-2515
Family Advocacy Program	536-5147

For additional information, contact Elizabeth Thompson at 536-4711.



Challenger Center plans first summer 'space camp'



By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks youth who plan to participate in the base's first summer space camp will be given an opportunity to become even more scientifically 'animated' than the title character in the movie "Jimmy Neutron - Boy Genius."

Called "Camp Challenger," three one-week sessions are planned that will help prepare youngsters for an out-of-this-world experience in their own backyard.

"We've always looked to do activities over and above Challenger (Center) missions. Just about all of the Challenger Centers (nationwide) have summer activity programs. This is a first for us. It will get children involved in activities that will help them prepare for their Challenger Center mission," said Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director.

The Challenger Learning Center will host space camp sessions on June 17-21, July 15-19 and July 22-26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for children ages 10-14 years old.

Challenger Center volunteers Marilyn Dickinson and Jenni Long will serve as space camp directors.

"For years, I use to run space camps for the San Antonio Academy and St. Luke's Catholic Church," said Dickinson, a retired Judson Independent School District teacher who once actively supported Judson ISD's young astronauts program.

While the Brooks venue does not feature the dazzling equipment and educational curriculum associated with youth space camps at Huntsville, Ala., and Cape Canaveral, Fla., it will nonetheless be challenging and fun-filled.

Planned activities support each space camp session's finale featuring a Challenger Center mission to rendezvous with a comet.

Dickinson said each space camp session's daily events are interconnected to subsequent activities, all of which are designed to improve participant's communication skills and ability to follow directions.

Team building exercises will include the construction on an international space station using PVC plastic tubing; learning the science of rocketry by designing, building and launching miniature rockets; identification of various planets through an innovative program called "eating your way through the solar system;" and lessons in chemistry, magnetism, robotics, physics, navigation, social studies, and geography.

The curriculum also includes exercises that focus on growing space food and physical conditioning in space.

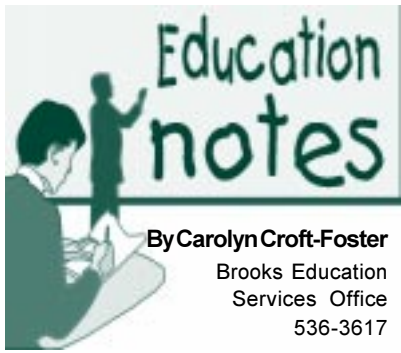
"It's an integrated curriculum designed to prepare participants for flying an actual Challenger Center mission," Dickinson said.

Space campers will also participate in a field trip to the IMAX Theater to view the new documentary movie "Space Station" narrated by Tom Cruise.

The 3-D movie about the international space station, produced by Lockheed Martin in cooperation with NASA, will premiere in San Antonio April 26.

Pre-registration deadline for all sessions is May 31. Price per child is \$300, which includes Camp Challenger T-shirt, Mission Activity Packet, snacks, and transportation and ticket to the IMAX film. For more information or to register call 531-9767.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617

CCAF increases value of 5-level

Effective Feb. 15, the value of 5-level Internship credit was changed from four semester hours to eight semester hours. These credits are applicable as technical core credit in all catalogs.

Students who believe these additional credits will complete their degree requirements need to call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

OTS selectees

The Air Force Recruiting Service Officer Accessions Board 0204 recently selected Tech. Sgt. David Anderson from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, and Senior Airman Omar Isaac from the 68th Information Operations Squadron, to attend Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Upon graduation both will serve as second lieutenants in the communications career field.



Anderson



Isaac

Congratulations.
The deadline for board 0207 is May 7. For more information call Education Services at 536-3617.

CLEP general English with essay

Students wishing to take the CLEP General English with Essay in April need to reserve their seat by March 29. This exam will be administered April 17. All other CLEP exams can be taken on any regular testing date. To reserve a seat for testing, call 536-3617.

VA benefits

Personnel who would like information on their VA benefits account or would like to speak with an Education Case Manager about VA education may call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: www.va.gov/education, or stop by the local VA field office.

VA information is also available on the Brooks Home Page and at the Customer Service Desk at the Brooks Education and Training Flight located in Bldg. 558.

Six CLEP exams retire

The College Board is retiring six CLEP Subject paper-based tests in fiscal year 2002.

The exams that will retire July 1 are: American Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Human Growth and Development, Marketing, Sociology, and Trigonometry.

CLEP Testing will continue to be administered on Fridays but will now be located in Bldg. 558, testing room.

For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 536-3617.



AFMC commander outlines expectations for inspections

By General Lester Lyles

AFMC Commander

Inspections, in general, clearly highlight strong performance factors and the many things we do exceptionally well across the command. I am concerned, however, that inspection results also indicate a wide variation of performance/compliance in several critical areas. Therefore, I want to reemphasize that the credibility of the inspection process, and your ability to accomplish your mission in accordance with prescribed directives and policies, are strongly reliant on how you respond to these independent assessments made by our inspection teams. The pace of operations and the diversity of issues we face as commanders are significant challenges to our ability to maintain sufficient emphasis on details in critical areas. Although, the many positive results justify our pride in our organizations, we must ensure adequate leadership attention is given to addressing significant issues and findings and remain diligent in bringing those programs/areas up to standard. It is particularly troubling that my inspectors note standards of performance that range from model programs, with processes worthy of command-wide implementation, to similar programs with obvious ineffective processes.

The command's inspection process, including the detailed inspection checklists, effectively mirror my expectations for full attention to detail as we strive for excel-

lence in all we do. I have asked our inspection teams, intentionally, to beef up our inspection checklists and ensure our standards are tough. Commanders at all levels are strongly urged to pay attention to inspection results and be actively engaged in instituting effective processes and controls capable of meeting our demanding standards. We all have an incredible amount of detailed information for decision-making and I ask you to continue to emphasize the critical nature of compliance in supporting mission accomplishment. Overlooking fundamental aspects of compliance in such areas as safety, technical data, or training run counter to establishing the sound foundation necessary to sustain our world class Air Force.

This command's performance is clearly evident in overall Air Force capabilities and I thank all of our folks for the many truly outstanding accomplishments. However, I also take this opportunity to reinforce my expectations for the highest standards of performance and compliance on our inspections throughout the command. Please pass along this emphasis to leaders at all levels within your centers. We must not allow any level of leadership to divert from this goal or become complacent. Failure to aggressively implement/maintain sound processes, or to promptly implement long-term corrective actions, is a breakdown of leadership values that must clearly be avoided and most certainly not be condoned.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Smart cards

Dr. Brendan Godfrey, 311th Human Systems Wing deputy director, receives his new common access identification card from the Brooks Military Personnel Flight. The MPF recently began issuing cards to active duty military, civilians and some contractors. The card has a vertical orientation, a color photo, and is issued for three years, regardless of rank or date of separation. The CAC is a "smart card" which will make information and access more secure.



NEWS briefs

Heritage Foundation scholarships

The Brooks Heritage Foundation is accepting applications for its 2002 Scholarships. This year the Foundation is offering the \$1000 P.D. Straw Scholarship and two \$250 student aide scholarships.

Eligibility requirements are described in the application, which are available at the Brooks Heritage Foundation office in Bldg. 659, adjacent to Hangar 9. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information contact the Foundation at 531-9767.

Promotion ceremony

The next Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for 3 p.m., April 1, in the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204. Everyone is invited to attend and support those members being promoted to their next grade.

Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects for participation in hypobaric (altitude) chamber research projects.

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month.

Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 20-45 years old, and able to pass an appropriate physical exam.

Contact Jim Carlile at 536-3546 or Heather Alexander at 536-3440 for more information.

Air Guard chiefs golf tournament

The Chiefs Council of the Texas Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing is sponsor-

ing a golf tournament April 1 at the Gateway Golf Course on

Lackland AFB.

Show time is at 11 a.m. with tee-off at 12:30 p.m. Registration is \$35 per individual with proceeds to benefit the council's scholarship award program.

Last year the Chiefs Council awarded four \$500 college scholarships to children of current and former 149th Fighter Wing members.

To register, contact Chief Master Sgt. Carlos Castillo at 366-1909, extension 229, or Master Sgt. Craig Austad at 977-3731.

Wilford Hall seeks nurses, technicians

As part of a bed expansion project at Wilford Hall Medical Center, the U.S. Air Force hospital is seeking to hire about 100 specialized nurses and medical technicians. Nurses from the hospital will assist the Lackland Air Force Base civilian personnel office at a Job Fair at Crossroads Mall March 26 to fill these positions.

Specifically, the medical center is looking for 53 registered nurses, 23 licensed vocational nurses, 13 medical technicians and 12 critical care technicians.

Specialties include surgical nurses for cardiology and inpatient units, and technicians for mental health and intensive care units.

Wilford Hall is one of the three Level I trauma hospitals serving the city and this region of the state, as well as its own Department of Defense patients.

Since it runs the largest Air Force medical training programs, including the only trauma training program, and is the Air Force's only Level I trauma center, the additional bed capacity will allow the teaching hospital to better support these programs and the local community.

Tax Tips

IRS cautions taxpayers about new line on tax forms

According to the Internal Revenue Service many early filers have made an error related to a new line on the federal tax form. This line is for the Rate Reduction Credit, which taxpayers use if they did not receive last summer's Advance Payment in the maximum amount for their filing status.

Some taxpayers are putting their Advance Payment amount on the credit line, when they should be leaving the line blank. If you have already received the maximum amount for your filing status, skip the Rate Reduction Credit line on your tax form. The maximum amounts are:

- C \$300 for a single person or a married person filing separately;
- C \$500 for a head of household;
- C \$600 for a married couple filing jointly or a qualifying widow(er).

Other taxpayers, who should claim a credit are leaving the line blank. These people received less than their filing status maximum amount as an Advance Payment and their 2001 income - generally higher than it was in 2000 — entitles them to claim the credit on their return.

The credit and the Advance Payments are how the new law gives one of its main benefits for 2001 - a 10 percent tax rate. Instead of having people wait until they file their 2001 tax returns to get a larger refund, the law provided for Advance Payments to be made last year, based on the returns for 2000. If the 2001 income and filing status would give a larger benefit than the Advance Payment, the taxpayer may claim the difference as a Rate Reduction Credit on the 2001 return.

Taxpayers who made an error related to this credit on their returns should wait to see if the IRS catches it. If the IRS does not contact them by the time they receive their refund, they may file an amended return to correct the error.



America celebrates National Women's History Month

Proclamation, 2002

By the President of the U.S.
Office of the Press Secretary

Women's History Month provides our country the privilege of honoring the countless contributions that American women have made throughout our history. These contributions have enriched our culture, strengthened our Nation, and furthered the Founders' vision for a free and just Republic that provides opportunity and safety at home and is an influence for peace around the world.

Since its beginnings, our land has been blessed by noteworthy women who played defining roles in shaping our Nation. Sakajawea was a Native American woman who befriended the explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, 150 years ago as they crossed the great Northwest. She helped Lewis and Clark's expedition complete the first successful overland transcontinental journey. Lucretia Mott courageously wrote and spoke against slavery and the lack of equal rights for women, helping America recognize the inherent wrong in the institutional subjugation of others and the need to strive for equality, freedom, and justice for all. Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman in America awarded a medical degree, and she dedicated her pioneering efforts as a physician to helping others.

Helen Keller overcame debilitating physical disabilities, showing us the power of a determined human spirit. And Clara Barton developed a vision for helping others through her service to the wounded during the Civil War; and she realized that vision by founding the American Red Cross after the war, an organization that has since become renowned for its effectiveness in helping those who suffer or are in need. Recently, the Red Cross reached out to aid Afghan women traumatized by the repressive rule of the intolerant Taliban regime, which for years had mercilessly oppressed Afghanistan and Afghan women in particular. Today, thousands of American women are furthering the cause of freedom through service in government, the military and other organizations, as we seek to defeat terrorism and bring justice to those responsible for the September 11 attacks.

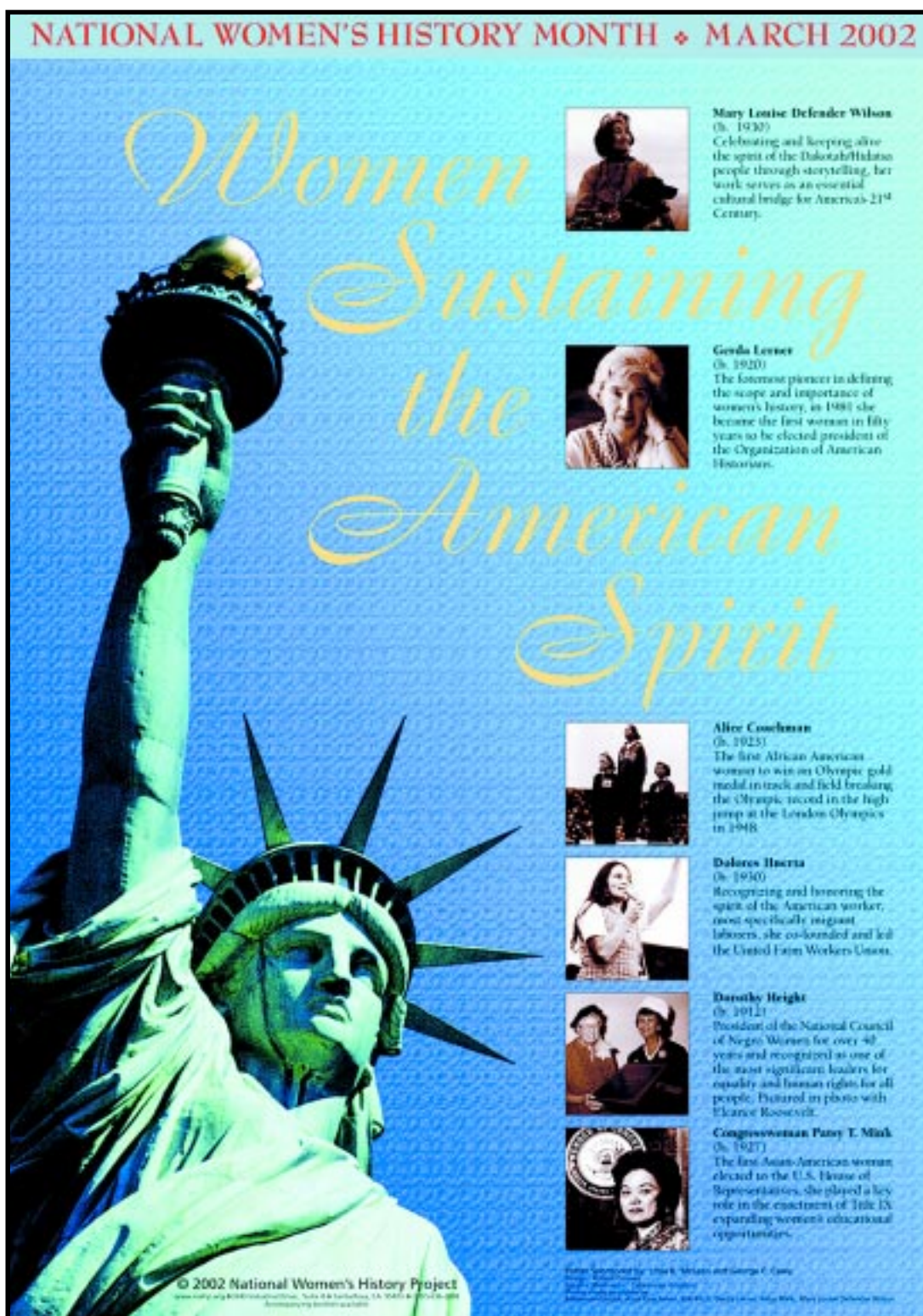
The history of American women is an expansive story of outstanding individuals who sacrificed much and worked hard in pursuit of a better world, where peace, dignity, and opportunity can reign. The spirit of loving determination that shaped these pursuits continues to serve as an example to those who seek to better our Nation. American women of strength, vision, and character have long influenced our country by contributing their time, efforts, and wisdom in vastly diverse ways to improve and enhance our government and communities, our schools and religious institutions, our businesses and the military, and the arts and sciences. Women also have fundamentally shaped our civilization in the care and nurturing of families. Today, women in contemporary America are furthering the Founders' vision by working to advance freedom, increase equality, and administer justice in every corner of our land, through their everyday work in schoolrooms, boardrooms, courtrooms, homes, and communities.

As President, I am proud to recognize the many contributions American women have made to help make our Nation free, strong and a force for peace and justice around the world. On this observance of Women's History Month, I encourage every American to learn more about these important contributions, and to celebrate their noble legacies as we work to build a brighter future for our Nation and for all of the world's people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as Women's History Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush



DoD observes Women's History Month

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON— "Women Sustaining the American Spirit," this year's theme for National Women's History Month, was chosen following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America, said Navy Undersecretary Susan M. Livingstone.

The theme recognizes the profound role and impact of women in creating and sustaining the nation, Livingstone told a packed theater at Arlington National Cemetery's Women in Military Service for America Memorial during the DoD's National Women's History Month observance.

The theme, Livingstone said, "focuses our thoughts on the strength and courage of women. Not only throughout the history of our country, but also to this very moment. And to this very day, where American women once again fight and make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom — now in a global war against terrorism."

"The depth of our shared love of country and our fellow citizens; the depth of our resolve to defend our democratic values; the strength of character, courage, bravery and heroism of Americans everywhere; the numerous acts of civility, selfless service and generosity that are at the very heart of our country — that is the American spirit the world understood on Sept. 11," she said.

"As women of America's Defense Department, it's particularly fitting today that we remember and cel-

brate our own," she said emphatically. The more than 200,000 women who serve on active military duty comprise nearly 15 percent of the active force.

Another 212,000 women serve in the National Guard and Reserve. More than 245,000 women work as defense civilian employees. More than 615,000 women today are military spouses, she noted.

"From the early days of this country to Operation Enduring Freedom, and all of the years in between, women in America's defense — both uniformed and civilian — have made a difference wherever they've served," she said.

"We are reminded of our courageous forces in Afghanistan, ... more than 10 percent of whom are women," Livingstone said.

"Of the 125 Pentagon workers who died that day, (Sept. 11) 47 were women," she noted. Seven of the women were active duty military members, and the other were civilians.

"They died because of how they lived, working in service to this nation," Livingstone said. "But Sept. 11 was not only about the loss of our sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers. It was also about the loss of our brothers, sons, fathers and grandfathers."

"So I ask you now to pledge to never forget," she said. "To never forget the sacrifice and courage of those we lost and their families. To never forget and never lose the renewed depth of American spirit we have felt since Sept. 11. And to never forget that our nation requires and deserves our resolve, our fortitude and our patriotism."



Blind boy takes historic Brooks 'space trip'



Photos by Rudy Purificato

John Eric Castillo reads his Braille instructions at the Mission Control medical station at the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks during his recent visit.

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Blind since birth, John Eric Castillo never envisioned he'd ever be given an opportunity to venture into space. While this Rhodes Middle School sixth grader's journey into the universe was only simulated, he unwittingly became America's first visually impaired cosmic pioneer.

Earlier this month, this 12-year-old San Antonio native made history by participating in a Challenger Learning Center mission.

"As far as we know, this is the only Challenger Center in the United States that has modified its program for visually impaired students," said Elizabeth Swanson, San Antonio Independent School District teacher of the visually impaired.

Castillo's Challenger experience significantly differs from that of Martin Luther King Middle School seventh grader Contreil Little's simulated flight here in December.

Castillo used a Braille book of instructions to fulfill his medical crew member assignment at both Mission Control and on the space station.

Littles, who is going blind, was able to see the same set of medical station instructions through the aide of a special magnifying device attached to the computer monitor.

"Jody (Harkrider) came up with the idea to include visually impaired students," Swanson said of the Chal-



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Jasmyne Jones, foreground, was Castillo's medical team partner during their Challenger Learning Center mission.

lenger Center commander who is a science resources teacher on loan from SAISD.

Harkrider coordinated with both Castillo's school and Northside ISD Rudder Middle School's Mary Tenner, whose sixth grade class participated in the Challenger mission.

Tenner selected one of her students, Jasmyne Jones, to partner with Castillo. The girl's kind and patient personality was a perfect fit for the highly active and talkative Castillo.

"They really worked well together," noted Swanson who has worked with Castillo since the boy was in kindergarten.

She said it was especially

important to pair Castillo with a student who has a lot of patience and understanding, particularly since the boy had not prepared for the mission with this class from another district.

Swanson and Harkrider collaborated months in advance to modify the instructions that Castillo read in Braille.

"It takes more time to read Braille. You can not understand what is written by glancing at it. It has to be read carefully," Swanson explains.

Castillo admits having little trouble with his assignment.

He said, "It wasn't that easy, but it was a lot of fun. In the space station you do a lot more

work than here (Mission Control)," Castillo said.

The boy read the instructions out loud to his partner who then fulfilled their medical station duties.

The exceptionally intelligent Castillo, who is a magnet school student, said that if he had found the Challenger Center assignment difficult, he still would not have given up.

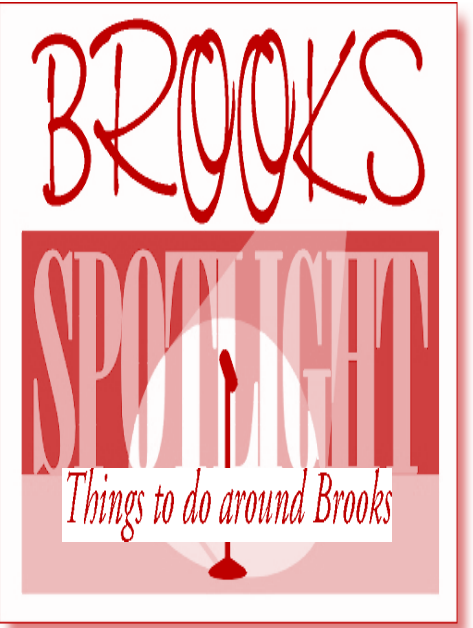
Harkrider and Swanson plan to modify the medical station instructions to eliminate text that is too wordy and time consuming for visually impaired students.

"We're hoping to open the door to all visually impaired students. There's no reason

“
It wasn't that easy, but it was a lot of fun. In the space station you do a lot more work than here.
”

John Eric Castillo
Rhode's Middle School student

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782
Gourmet Night is back by popular demand. Make your reservations now and mark May 17 on your calendar. The dining experience will begin at 6 p.m. that evening and take guests through 10 sumptuous courses. The menu consists of assorted canapés, confetti Vegetable consommé, shrimp almondine en papillote, pineapple burgundy sorbet, tournedos bearnaise, braised lettuce, baked berny potatoes, fresh spring fruit salad with honey

lime vinaigrette dressing and ends with baked Alaska. Various wines will accompany the meal. Reservations are limited to the first 40 people to sign-up so be sure to stop by soon.
Have you visited the Boar’s Head Pub lately? They have added several new items to the menu, including ceaser or chicken ceaser salad, and Billie’s Burger.
Stop by and pick up an order of Grab “N” Go Chicken on the way home. Call 536-3782 Tuesday -Friday from 4- 8 p.m. and place your order. Each chicken order is served with appropriate amounts of mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable of the day, rolls and butter. There is an additional charge for all white meat. Allow 45 minutes for meals to be prepared.

Sidney’s

Bldg. 714, 536-2077
Join us for lunch Monday through Friday from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. During March we will offer the following entrees: Mondays-American entrees; Tuesdays-Italian entrees; Wednesdays-Oriental entrees; Thursdays-Mexican entrees and Fridays-Seafood and Soul entrees. You’re sure to find something for everyone to enjoy with this varied menu.
Free pool on Thursdays.

Youth Services Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515
The Easter bunny is arriving at Brooks March 30. The Easter Egg Hunt

starts at exactly 2 p.m. so don’t be late.
The hunt will be held in the area surrounding the center for four age groups: 1-3 years, 4-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years. Large numbered eggs containing slips of paper can be exchanged for a prize.
Each child must bring their own basket.
Hot dogs, chips and a drink will be sold for \$2 during the hunt. Photos with the Easter Bunny will also be available for \$2.50. Take them to the FrameWorks to have them framed.

Registration or the 2002 Brooks Youth Baseball season is underway for ages 5-6 years (Development League), 7-8 years, 9-10 years, 11-12 years and 13-15 years.
Brook’s youth will be participating in a league with Lackland AFB and Ft. Sam Houston. Non-department of Defense personnel will be accepted on a space available basis. For more details contact Larry Flores at 536-8130 or the Youth Center staff.

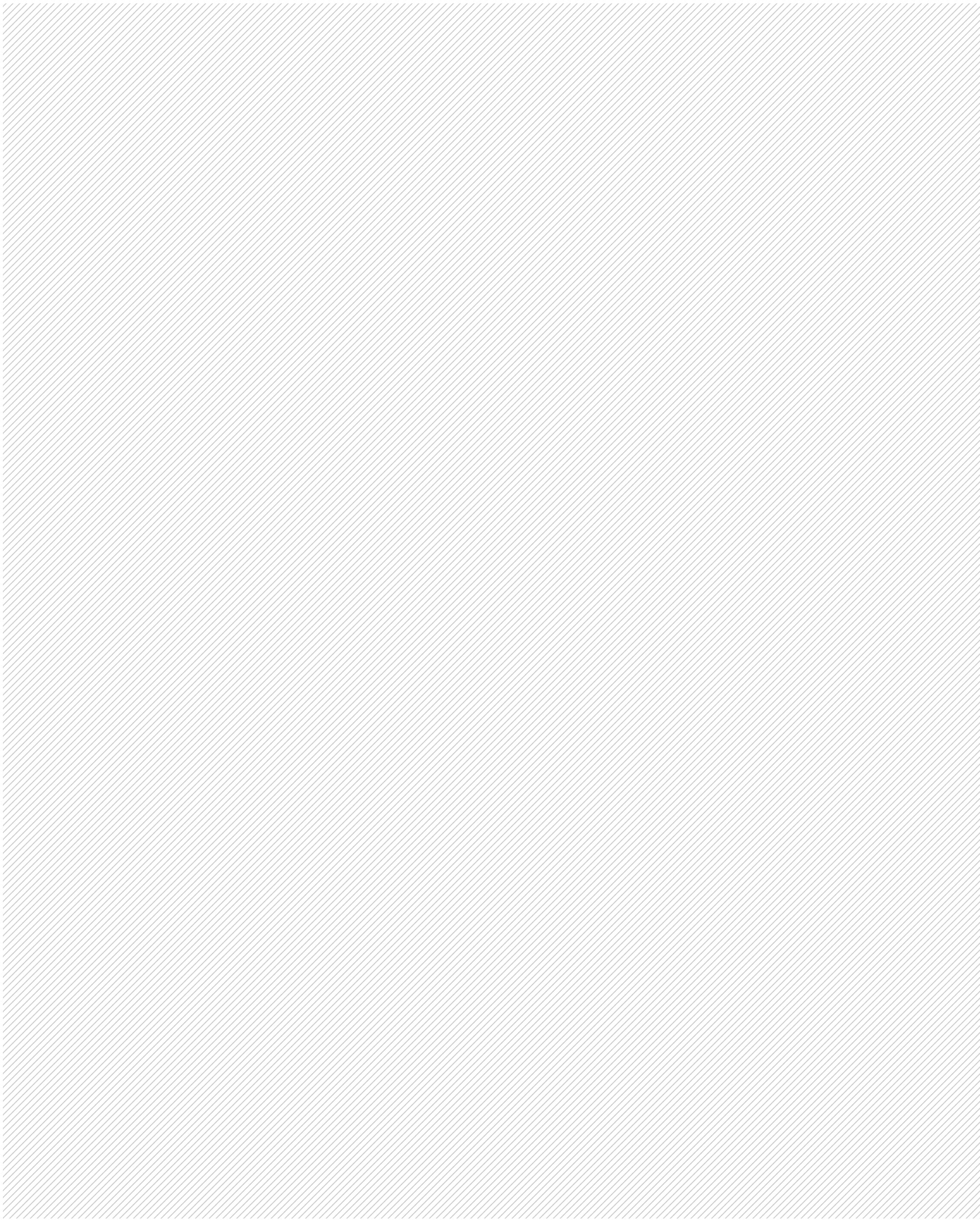
Student Activity Center

Bldg. 722, 536-2383
Introducing first-run movies Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays at 8 p.m. Students, E-3 & below, may use the center Tuesday through Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to midnight. We have a wide screen TV, VCR, dance floor, games and much more. Stop by and check out the center.

Tips to prevent child abuse

By Elizabeth Thompson
311th HSW Family Advocacy

What children can do:
Listen to your parents and don’t go where you are not allowed to go.
Don’t accept rides or gifts from strangers.
Be aware of your surroundings and go home or seek an adult you trust if you feel uncomfortable.
If you are home alone, know how to reach your parents.
Do not give information to telephone callers.
Do not unlock your door to someone you don’t know.
Memorize your address, phone number and parents’ work numbers.
Ask parents how to contact police if you feel immediate danger.
What parents can do:
Know where your children are and who they are with at all times.
When out in public, keep your children within eyesight at all times.
Don’t leave young children at home alone.
If children are old enough to be home alone, let them know how to reach you.
Frequently check on children at home alone.
Maintain current photographs/video and fingerprints.
Monitor children’s Internet activities.





Intramural volleyball rivals launch season campaign

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Not even a crystal ball can help prognosticators predict what teams from a field of nine will contend for the base intramural volleyball crown. The regular season, which began March 5, is expected to produce some surprises from perennial contenders. The top four teams from the regular season will meet in the base championship tournament tentatively scheduled for April 22.

"This year we're going to run our setter out of the back row with three hitters up front. It will confuse the (opposing) defense where the hit is coming from," said player-coach Don Goudy of the defending league champion 68th Information Operations Squadron.

The 68th IOS team is still feeling the effects of a heartbreaking upset base tournament loss to the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis,

which advanced to the championship game. However, what happened last year only steels the resolve of a team that has all of its starters returning.

"Everybody is back. We're going to be a decent team," Goudy said with relish. Key veterans including hitter and former varsity player Davie Bass, setter Michael Schmidt and 6'6-and-a-half inch hitter/blocker Matt Failace will be assisted by a host of newcomers featuring six-foot-tall back row specialist Jennifer Reisdorf, Ron Reynolds and Remo Rayson serving both back row and front row duties, and Shannon Morris as a back row specialist.

"The key for us winning is having everybody there (for games). Last year, we had no depth which hurt us because we had key injuries late (in the season)," Goudy explained. The team now has some depth, something critical in military intramurals because of shift work, deployments and TDYs.

AFIERA, which defeated base tourney number one seed 68th IOS, is

poised to make another run at the base crown that they lost last year to the upstart 311th Security Forces Squadron.

"We have about the same team from last year," said first-year AFIERA player-coach Cesar Abinsay. Abinsay, who played for AFIERA during the team's own heartbreaking loss to the cops, said last year's eventual base champion "peaked at the right time." SFS was seeded fourth in the 2001 base tourney with a 5-5 regular season record.

Abinsay plans to field a veteran squad again this year with key returning starters: hitters Bob Walton and David Villarreal and setters Blanca Peredes and Patricia Bradley.

He said Peredes and Bradley demonstrated mid-season form in the team's only preseason game against the 311th Human Systems Program Office. "They did a great job against YA which we beat," the AFIERA coach noted.

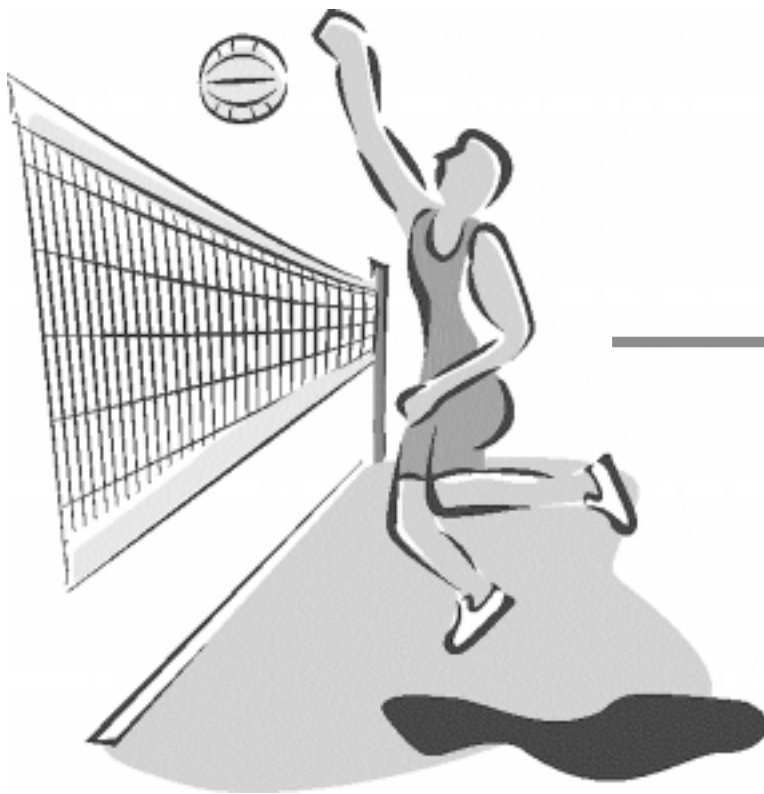
AFIERA has added several new players to its arsenal including setter/hit

ter Monica Good, a former base varsity team player; and rookie Nestor Ruiz. "The (team) chemistry is already there," Abinsay said.

Defending base champion 311th SFS remains a formidable contender with returning veterans Arturo Dominguez, Christian Madrigal, Brandon Sorgenfrei and player-coach Manuel Palomarez.

Other teams competing this year include the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, 311th Human Systems Program Office, 311th HSW Contracting Office, 311th Medical Squadron and "Pool Players" led by varsity women's coach Jose Murillo.

Pablo Segura, fitness center specialist in charge of intramural sports, said anyone wanting to join a team can do so by calling 536-2188. The deadline for participating is two weeks prior to the end of the regular season, which concludes April 16.



Varsity volleyball women work to elevate their game

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Veteran coaches like Jose Murillo know the truth behind the paraphrased prose of Mark Twain: "the difference between getting it right and getting it nearly right is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug."

The Brooks varsity women's volleyball team Murillo led into the Air Force Materiel Command tournament last year overachieved by elevating their game.

They nearly got it right in learning what it takes to win a championship. Yet they came up short, placing second but restoring Brooks's reputation as a contender.

The difference between last year's team and the 2002 squad is not even close to what Mark Twain suggested in his analogy.

Yet there remains a gulf that Murillo must bridge if his team is to have a fighting chance of reclaiming past glory and perhaps make a run at a championship.

"We have only two returning starters, outside hitters Tasha Pravecek from AFCEE (Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence) and Danille Butler from the (Brooks) clinic," Murillo

said.

Three players from the 2000 Brooks squad, which did not win an AFMC tourney game, and two rookies complement this year's cast.

What Murillo doesn't have is the "play their hearts out" Kelly AFB threesome of setter Suzanna Torres and strong hitters Jennifer Kylander and Tammy Miller who dominated and dazzled opponents as part of the combined Brooks-Kelly 2001 squad.

"Most of my players are starting from scratch. Even the returning players from two years ago have lost the concept of varsity level play," admits Murillo.

However, Murillo's spirit of optimism is buoyed by what he sees in all his players.

"I've got a very good feeling about this team. They are willing to learn. That makes me feel confident because they want to better themselves. They're teachable," he said.

Sports history at any level has repeatedly demonstrated that successful teams are built upon a foundation of unity. Unity begins with player trust in a coach's guidance.

"The challenge is (for me) to bring some of these players up to varsity level (play)," Murillo said, noting that a key weakness he'll be working on

is improving their reaction time.

"Back row players (especially) have to have fast reflexes. They have to be able to react quickly to keep the ball in play," he said.

One of the key lessons learned from last year that Murillo is now emphasizing is concentration.

"Individual players have to concentrate on winning each point and to control their emotions."

This is critical with the new rally score format in which either side can earn a point on each play no matter who served.

"We can't afford to miss a serve. Very few points were lost by last year's team on bad serves," confessed Murillo.

The coach is pleased with the team's strengths: receiving and passing the ball.

"That's very important. If the other team has a good server and we can't control the ball, that's the game," he said.

Murillo is planning several scrimmage games for his squad in preparation for a tournament to be hosted here on April 27.

The AFMC championship tourney is scheduled for May 10-16 at Eglin AFB, Fla.

Fiesta Golf Tournament

Register now for the Fiesta Golf Tournament.

Slots are filling up quickly for the Fiesta Golf Tournament at the Brooks Golf Course April 5 beginning at noon. Registration begins at 11 a.m. that day. Format is a Florida scramble with four-person teams.

Prizes will be given to first, second, and third place teams and for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Cost is \$25, which includes green fee, cart, and a hot dog/chips/soda lunch.

To register, contact Ed Shannon at 536-5140, or by email at: ed.shannon@brooks.af.mil.



AFIERA survives Garcia’s play to win base hoop championship

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In a dramatic end to the intramural basketball post-season, the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis survived the Herculean effort of ABG #2 to win the base championship March 7.

The 67-48 score does not truly reflect the story of a game in which a severely shorthanded ABG #2 turned from the number one tournament seed as league champs to underdog in the title contest. AFIERA, who lost the regular season league crown on a buzzer shot by ABG #2, played well enough to be base champions. However, ABG #2’s and inspiring point guard Robert Garcia dominated the game with his talent and unwavering leadership.

Garcia led all scorers with 30 points, but it was his presence on the court that towered over AFIERA. Garcia’s speed was no match for any of his opponents and his fast break points in the first half kept the game close at 29-26 by halftime. ABG #2 relied on guts and guile to stay in the game against the talent-laden AFIERA squad led by William Lawrence who scored a team-high 20 points.

Garcia’s coachless squad fielded only five players, but at the first timeout of the second half the

visibly tired AFIERA center Al Bolds was heard admonishing his teammates, “They’re killing us out there. Spread it out and find the open man.” The center’s advice was an acknowledgement of how ABG #2 had elevated their level of play when their center Jesus Ontiveros fouled at 13:10 in the second half, giving AFIERA a 5-4 player advantage for the rest of the game.

With Ontiveros on the bench and a lone ABG #2 fan watching quietly from the bleachers, Garcia, off-guard David Butler and forwards Clay Phipps and Steve Green continued to make AFIERA’s mighty nine suck wind for the remainder of the contest. With six minutes left, AFIERA finally fully exploited their manpower advantage with numerous substitutions to blow the game wide open.

“These guys played a heckava game,” Garcia said in crediting his teammates.

“My sidekick and buddy Slim was not here because he couldn’t get off (from work),” Garcia said of their star power forward Armand ‘Slim’ Bailey who was confined to his command post duties.

Many of AFIERA’s fans marveled at ABG #2’s inspiring play against great odds. A few fans might have wondered how much tougher it would have been to win if their opponents had fielded their full arsenal of players.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum

AFIERA center Al Bolds scores two of his 10 points that contributed to his team’s base championship victory.